

Sax, Charles Joseph, 16 key bassoon; SaxCJ5-O-BrusMIM1977.017

Complete Project Title: SaxCJ5-O-BrusMIM1977.017-Wg1-WOB-DNM

c. 1840, S-13 in the de Keyser catalog

Short Format; several tone hole measurements not taken

Charles Joseph Sax, Brussels/Paris (1790-1865)

Literature: Haine, Malou. *Adolphe Sax, sa vie, son œuvre,*

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Jansen, Will. *The Bassoon: Its History, Construction, Makers, Players and Music.* Frits Knuf, 1978 Vol. 1, p. 474.

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Larson, André Pierre. *A Catalog of Double Reed Instruments in the Arne B. Larson Collection of Musical Instruments.* Thesis, University of South Dakota, 1964.

Londeix, Jean-Marie. *Pour une histoire du saxophone et des saxophonistes, Livre 1 (1814 à 1899) Adolphe Sax.* Delatour France, 2017, pp. 13-20.

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Rachor, David. "Les bassons de Charles-Joseph Sax". *Larigot* 66, Bulletin de l'Association des Collectionneurs d'Instruments à Vent, Octobre 2020.

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Location: Musée des instruments de musique (MIM), Brussels, Belgium

Measured 18 Feb 2019, 15 Feb 2024

16 Key: Wing: two octave keys, C# left thumb

Boot: Bb 3rd finger, G, F, F#, Ab (large bore), Ab right thumb (large bore), C# RT

Long joint: Eb left thumb, C, B touch, Bb touch, C# left little finger

Bell: Bb flap

No; Swallowtail F key touch

No; Two-piece saddle on F key flap and touch

No; Two-hole boot joint system

No; Military bell

No; Bell flare
No; Bell crown
No; Bell chamber
No; Tone hole on bell (except low Bb flap)
Yes; Table on long joint
No; Date; stamped "A Bruxelles"

Important Points:

1. Keys in pillars with rods or screws, soldered on a plate
2. Tone hole surfaces rounded as a modern bassoon
3. G key on boot vents to both small bore (larger tone hole) and small bore (smaller tone hole).
4. All pillars soldered on a plate, none drilled directly in wood
5. Boot turn around has a flap system on hinge with two screws going into the single cork (possibly the two screws not original, why are they needed?)
6. Plates under pillars have a sort of track for the spring to flex on.
7. All key flaps are "clef guilloché".

Notes:

1. Wing joint: keys on pillars and screws or rods, soldered on a plate; keys with guides
2. Boot: keys on pillars and screws or rods, soldered on a plate; keys with guides
3. Long joint: keys on pillars and screws or rods, soldered on plate; keys with guides; Eb, C, B touch, Bb touch in saddles
4. Bell: Bb flap on pillars and rods, soldered on a plate
5. Keys in form of shells or *à bascule*
6. Thick bell, but mostly normal in dimensions
7. A bassoon of exceptional finesse.
8. Basn very heavy, ebony (de Keyser says grenadille)
9. Long joint bottom tenon probably replaced with brass, also large boot socket has a brass insert.
10. Bore in all segments in great shape, not at all oval.
Ever played?
11. Clef guilloché

Standing Height; Bell, long joint, boot 125.5cm
[measured with boot cap not removed]

Wing and boot 89.3cm

Stamps on all joints [wing, boot, long joint, bell]
"A Bruxelles"

Measurements not included on Data file

Ab tone hole [boot, large side] [right little finger]	10.8mm diameter 360mm from boot socket Drilled over toward large bore 15.5mm length
Ab tone hole [boot, large side] [right thumb]	10.8mm diameter 360mm from boot socket Drilled over toward large bore 17.8mm length, vrfd
F# tone hole [boot, large side] [right thumb]	7.1mm diameter 271mm from boot socket Drilled over to large boot bore 12.4mm length
Bb tone hole [boot, small side] [right 3 rd finger]	8.6mm diameter 223mm from boot socket Drill down and over to small bore 24.5mm length, vrfd long
C# tone hole [wing] [left thumb]	4.3mm diameter 54mm from wing tenon 6.3mm length
C# tone hole [boot, small side] [right thumb]	10.5mm diameter 57mm from boot socket 20.0mm length, vrfd long to go over to small bore
Low Eb tone hole [left thumb]	8.4mm diameter 123mm from small long joint tenon 2.5mm length vrfd, short, tone hole surface cut into wood
Low C# tone hole [left little finger]	9.2mm diameter 323mm from small long joint tenon 5.0mm length Note: only key for left little finger
Low B [Bell]	12.2mm diameter 105mm from bell socket 1.5mm length vrfd short
Undercutting on long joint	Yes, a great deal in long joint

Boot joint small socket depth 46.7mm
Boot joint large socket depth 47.6mm (brass insert in socket)

Cronin Meas. 338mm

Wing thickness across E [II] tone hole 43.3mm
Maximum thickness of boot at C [IV] tone hole 46.4mm

Thread sizes: Pivot screws; M2.5 x 0.45 [only two on bassoon]
Rods M2.0 x 0.40

Reed in case

Total length 58.5mm
Blade length 29mm
Two iron wires, 7mm apart
Red string
Could not reed name, could be Paris on second line